

APRIL 2017

"TRUTH"

**A SURE WORD
FOR TODAY**



Truth is like a mountain, It cannot
be moved and it never changes

IN THIS ISSUE

FEATURE ARTICLE:

"Where is God?" (Part 2)

Page 2

A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA:

"Remembering The Good Times "

Page 4

PROPHECY UPDATE:

"Are We Headed In a New Direction?"

Page 6

WEBSITE UPDATE

This month we are featuring a new series entitled, "How To Raise Your Children." In the "Message of the Month" we bring you part 7 and in the "Free Sermons" section we bring you the entire 7 part series. According to scripture our children are supposed to be a blessing. Yet, so many have experienced the heartbreak of seeing their children become their worst nightmare. This can be avoided if we follow God's Word!

As always, the material we offer each month comes to you at no cost. This includes the "TRUTH" Newsletter, the free sermon downloads, and the encouraging words and photos contained in the website. We have been able to do this because of a few faithful donors who have recognized the value of this ministry. We thank you so much!

FEATURE ARTICLE: "WHERE IS GOD?"

PART 2

WARNING: You are entering the "TRUTH ZONE". You may not like what you read. It may make you feel uncomfortable. That is not my goal. My goal is to help you and provide spiritual guidance for you and your family in a time of great spiritual darkness. You can be sure that what you read here will be TRUTH!

Last month I started a series dealing with the question of unanswered prayer. In this series I am attempting to give you some understanding as to why so many prayers seem to go unanswered. If you have not read Part 1 in the March newsletter, I urge you to do so before reading this article. You can find it by going to the archives section at the very bottom of our home page and clicking on the "View Newsletters" button.

In Part 1 we talked about some of the reasons Bible teachers have given for why our prayers are not answered. I feel some are either not helpful at best, or just plain wrong at worst. **There is another reason many give that is totally right but still not all that helpful.** They quote 1 John 5:14-15.

1 John 5:14-15 (AMP)

"This is the [remarkable degree of] confidence which we [as believers are entitled to] have before Him: that **if we ask anything according to His will**, [that is, consistent with His plan and purpose] He hears us. 15 And if we know [for a fact, as indeed we do] that He hears and listens to us in whatever we ask, we [also] know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have [granted to us] the requests which we have asked from Him."

For these good folks, the reason a prayer is not answered is because they may have asked for something that was not God's will. That is a simple and reasonable explanation, and is why nearly every prayer they pray will include, "If it be Thy will." **I have no problem with those who pray this way, but there are some who would strongly disagree.** They say the Word of God plainly tells us what God's will is and therefore, we should ascertain from His Word what His will is before we pray, and then pray in faith what we already know His will to be. This, too, sounds reasonable.

However, it has one serious problem. The end result for these folks is really no different than it is

for the folks who are praying, "If it be Thy will." **Sooner or later both will end up with prayers that do not get answered. That is a fact of life we should not try to cover up or ignore.**

I am not writing this to try to convince you which way is the right way to pray. I am merely trying to show you that regardless of how we pray, all of us at some point in our life will have to just trust that God has not made a mistake when He refused to answer our prayer.

I believe this is where this series can give us some help. It is one thing to tell people to just trust that God makes no mistakes; it is another thing to give them some understanding as to why God makes the decisions He makes. If He loves us so much, why wouldn't it be His will to grant us healing? **If you can understand how God thinks, it will certainly go a long way towards helping you trust Him.**

Last month I started by showing you that our view of things is very different than God's. Because He dwells in eternity, He views our entire life span as something incredibly short. I said, "Even if we live to be a hundred, it is but the blink of an eye when compared to eternity." In God's eyes the amount of time we spend enduring pain, sickness, and death is less than a nanosecond. We cry out, "How long, Lord?" But in God's eyes, it actually is not long at all.

The question then becomes not "how long," but rather, what does God see is being accomplished during our time of trial? This again is one of the things that makes it so hard for us to trust the Lord. To us, our suffering seems to be so pointless and serves no purpose. **But, is that how God sees it?**

The Bible is very plain that there is a great reward reserved for us in heaven. Jesus told us to "store up treasures in heaven." (Matthew 6:20) But how do we do that? What actions can cause our treasure to grow? The prosperity teachers tell us if we want our heavenly treasure to grow, we need to send them an offering. Hmm...does anyone besides me smell an impure motive? Could there be a better answer?

“ WHERE IS GOD?” Part 2

Continued from Page 2

The full answer to that question would fill a book, but allow me to focus on just one thing that the Scriptures make very clear. Can it be possible that experiencing suffering, **while still maintaining our faith**, might be one of the greatest ways for us to store up treasures in heaven? **Do the Scriptures confirm such a thought?**

2 Corinthians 4:17 (AMP)

“For our momentary, light distress [this passing trouble] **is producing for us** an eternal weight of glory [a fullness] beyond all measure [surpassing all comparisons, a transcendent splendor and an endless blessedness]!”

Wow..That is a bombshell! The first thing I want to point out is that when Paul says it is a **“momentary, light distress,”** he is speaking of how God views it. To us it is not “momentary” or “light.” To us it is “long and heavy.” This may then cause us to ask, if it is temporary and light, how can it produce something so amazing in eternity?

Consider a nuclear bomb. Atoms are some of the smallest particles known to man, and yet they can release the greatest display of awesome power man has ever witnessed. That is how our brief time of suffering should be viewed.

Without question, the faith we maintain while going through pain, suffering, and even death is incredibly valuable in God’s eyes. In our eyes the whole thing may seem pointless, **but in God’s eyes it is producing something amazing and of great value that will last for all eternity.**

So let’s go back to where we started. Let’s look at all this through God’s eyes. Here we have someone we dearly love who is suffering through a terrible sickness. We pray fervently for their healing. We want to see them miraculously delivered. We want to see them well. We cry out to God and try to stand in faith believing. Yet it goes on and on, sometimes for months, only to be concluded at a gravesite. **Where was God?**

God was right there! He saw this as a trial the size of an atom. He also saw it as a nanosecond in duration. And He also saw what we would gain by enduring that brief moment of suffering. He saw this as something that was laying up for us a huge treasure that Paul describes as **“an eternal weight of glory [a fullness] beyond all measure [surpassing all comparisons, a transcendent splendor and an endless blessedness]!”**

Think about this - if God answered all the prayers being prayed, He would only be denying His saints the opportunity to build their eternal treasure. I must be sure you understand: **God does not place any value on the suffering, He only places value on the faith we hold to through the suffering.**

1 Peter 1:7 (AMP)

“...so that the genuineness of your faith, which is much more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested and purified by fire, **may be found to result in** [your] praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Now I ask you, if you were God, would you over and over, again and again, answer every prayer, and thereby keep God’s people from ever laying up their eternal treasure? Think about it.

Over the course of a half century of ministry, I have seen something that has never failed to impress me. I have seen people of faith pray and believe for healing, either for themselves or a loved one. The thing that has amazed me is to observe how totally unshakable their faith has remained. Often their prayers were not answered, but their faith never wavered. **Their death became the finest hour of their faith-filled life!** If this impressed me, think how much more it must have impressed God!

Romans 8:18 (VOICE)

“Now I’m sure of this: the sufferings we endure now are not even worth comparing to the glory that is coming and will be revealed in us.”

To be continued
next month



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA

“Remembering The Good Times”



Make no mistake about it, life can be very difficult. Sometimes it seems as if each new day brings with it a new set of challenges. One of the biggest mistakes Christians

make is to buy into the thinking that says God exists for our comfort and convenience.

First of all, that way of thinking will quickly be exposed as wrong just by what happens in everyday life. My husband would say, **“That dog won’t hunt.”** Second, the Scriptures certainly do not support that belief system.

John 16:33 (TLB)

“...Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows; but cheer up, for I have overcome the world.”

There are many other scriptures that basically say the same thing. So how do we live in the most victory possible, even though our life is made up of battle after battle? Well, one thing for sure that will not hurt is to **“Remember The Good Times.”**

Yes, we all experience hard times, but all of us also experience good times. I believe the Word admonishes us to remember and focus on the good times.

I am not a big fan of Willie Nelson, but there is one of his songs where he really got the words right.

Willie Nelson: “Remember The Good Times”

Remember the good times
They're smaller in number
And easier to recall
Don't spend too much time
On the bad times
They're staggering in number
And will be heavy
As lead on your mind

It is so easy to forget the good things God has done and spend our time talking about the bad things that have happened to us. For sure this will not bring us much joy or happiness. **It just becomes “as heavy as lead on our minds.”**

I have so many good memories that I love to think about. I can't help but recall the groundbreaking in a wheat field for Resurrection Fellowship 31 years ago. It was one of the most exciting times in our ministry. Both my husband and I were up in the cab of a huge front end loader and dug the first scoop of dirt. There were so many shouts of excitement and praise.

(See the photo on page 7 below.)

That proved to be the beginning of many times of joy and yes, some times of sadness. But what good would it do to dwell on the difficult times? **I choose to remember the happy times.**

Sometimes joy comes out of pain and then it is up to us to choose to remember the joy instead of the pain. A good example of pain that brings forth joy is childbirth. I remember when I gave birth to our son. I endured some of the worst pain I have ever experienced. I honestly wasn't sure I was going to make it. But oh, the joy when John said these words, "You gave me a son!" It was so wonderful I couldn't believe him until I actually held my newborn son. My pain was soon forgotten and joy came forth.

John 16:21 (ERV)

"When a woman gives birth to a baby, she has pain, because her time has come. But when her baby is born, she forgets the pain. She forgets because she is so happy that a child has been born into the world."

If we are to be honest, we all would probably say there are times when it seems as if the goodness of God has been removed from our life. **Where is God? Why are our prayers not being answered?** David experienced such a time and he told us how he handled it.

Psalms 77:10-12 (CEB)

"It's my misfortune, I thought, that the strong hand of the Most High is different now. 11 But I will remember the Lord's deeds; yes, I will remember your wondrous acts from times long past. 12 I will meditate on all your works; I will ponder your deeds."

There may be some who are so discouraged by their present situation that they feel as if there is nothing good to remember. Their entire life seems to have been one bad experience followed by another. Right now everything seems dark and discouraging. I want to be kind, but I must tell you that this is simply not true.

Have you forgotten the many areas where we are all given an equal number of blessings?

Here is a list of examples. By just looking at nature, we are all allowed to witness the great works of the Lord: a sunrise, a rainbow, a waterfall, the mountains, the fall foliage, snow covered peaks and meadows, the spring flowers, beautiful butterflies and birds, or a magnificent sunset. All who are blessed with eyes to see have the same chance to gather these wonderful, beautiful memories.

Here is something else to consider. Are you born again? All of us who are born again have something to remember that is so wonderful. We can all thank Jesus for what He has done so we may have eternal life. Our salvation through Jesus gives us reason to rejoice and shout His praises. This is why the Lord told us to take communion "in remembrance of Me."

Yes, I will agree, the hardest times to remember the good times and God's faithfulness are when we are going through some really tough things. But we need to remember that God often uses the tough times to lead us into a much better place. He turns our mourning into dancing.

When it comes to our memories, we all have a choice of what to focus on. We can remember the good times or we can remember the times when we were hurt and wounded. My husband teases me because I seem to have a really good memory. Yes I do, but that doesn't mean I have to dwell on bad memories even if I can't forget them. Instead, I choose to dwell on the good times; the times of joy that made us laugh and put a smile on our faces.

Philippians 4:8 (AMP)

"Finally, believers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable and worthy of respect, whatever is right and confirmed by God's word, whatever is pure and wholesome, whatever is lovely and brings peace, whatever is admirable and of good repute; if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, **think continually on these things [center your mind on them, and implant them in your heart]."**

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE
"TRUTH".

“ Are We Headed In a New Direction?”

Since the day Donald Trump placed his hand on the Bible and swore to uphold the Constitution of the United States, it has seemed as if all hell has broken loose. The same liberal news media that opposed him prior to the election would now have you and I believe that it is Trump's radical actions that have caused this turmoil. I hope you are not foolish enough to believe this totally biased propaganda.

The media seems to forget that in recent history Democratic presidents have issued travel bans. Others have talked about the need for this while campaigning for votes, but have failed to deliver once elected. Donald Trump seems to be cut out of a different cloth. At least he is attempting to do what he said he would do.

Then there are the liberal federal judges who seem to think they should set policy for this entire country, instead of the President. **This is absolute insanity!** Once again the news media tries to make it appear as if this is necessary because President Trump is abusing his power by issuing presidential executive orders. **What epic hypocrisy!** Where was the outcry when Barack Obama issued 276 executive orders and Bill Clinton issued 364?

Why do we not hear the liberal news media condemn those who are advocating violent military overthrow of our government, the bombing of the White House, and the assassination of our President? **The entire liberal cause appears to me to be pretty much a "basket of deplorables."**

I predict Donald Trump will get done much of what he promised. It won't be easy and it may take him more time than he thought, but he will get it done and America will be much stronger 4 years from now.

Now I want to turn your attention to something else I believe is connected to the Trump presidency that is happening in another part of the world. Donald Trump has made no secret of the fact he is a strong supporter of Israel. Unlike his predecessor, he is more about actions than empty, meaningless words.

Because Israel once again knows the United States will stand with them, they have done something that would have been considered impossible and very dangerous just a few months ago. On February 6, 2017, the Israeli Knesset ratified the controversial Expropriation Bill, which retroactively legalizes about 4,000 "settler outposts" located on privately owned land in Judea and Samaria.

Deputy Defense Minister Rabbi Eli Ben-Dahan said, "The Israeli government has finally taken responsibility for Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria. The Expropriation Law is the first step towards applying Israeli sovereignty in all of Judea and Samaria."

Ben-Dahan's party colleague Moti Yogev concurred, adding, "Something enormous happened today: The Knesset ratified the Expropriation Law... this is history, and it is a reality that the Jewish People have returned to their land."

Needless to say, all are not happy. The Joint List party said in a statement, "...the legalization law is another step towards annexation and away from a two-state solution." **Well...hallelujah, it's about time! (My words.)**

I must point out, this could have never happened at anytime in the last eight years. Had Israel done this, war would have broken out immediately. This is because the Palestinians would have known that Barack Obama would have defended them and openly criticized Israel. It then would have been taken to the UN where Israel would have faced the condemnation of the world.

Isn't it amazing what a difference Mr. Trump has already made? Things are changing rapidly both at home and abroad. **We are headed in a new direction. The world is headed in a new direction.**

But we must not stop praying. Make no mistake about it, this man is hated more and more with the passing of each day. Even now, there are those who would plot and plan his demise. We prayed and God put him in office. If we will continue to pray, God will use him in a great and mighty way.

And that my friends,
is the "Truth!"

REZ GROUNDBREAKING 1986

